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PROGRAM Dan Rather STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE November 3, 1981 5:40 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT UFOs, A Military Threat

BOB SCHIEFFER: This is Bob Schieffer, sitting in for Dan Rather, and reporting with news and commentary on the CBS Radio Network.

When the space shuttle shoots into outer space tomorrow, it will not be alone. It will enter a region inhabited by satellites and stars and space litter and UFOs. That last part, the part about UFOs, is the assumption of a group which for some time has been bringing suit against the government to force it to open its UFO files. The group was successful in 1979 when the CIA released 900 UFO-related documents. Now they are going for the files of the National Security Agency, a handful of files which they believe contains tatalizing information, like a report on a UFO which supposedly shot down a Russian MIG over Cuba a few years ago. The latest suit is being brought by a New York attorney who says UFOs aren't happy little spaceships carrying creatures of benign intent; UFOs, he says, are a real military threat.

We'll have the UFO suit in a moment.

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SCHIEFFER: Peter Gersten is a lawyer in the Bronx and the director of a small group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, or CAUSE. In 1977 the group sued, under the Freedom of Information Act, to force the CIA to publish its UFO files. Two years later, the CIA released 900 pages of documents. But during its search of the files, the agency found some material that originated with the National Security Agency. It turned the papers over to NSA. Gersten and CAUSE filed suit to get them too.